United Nations A/62/7/Add.29

General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 December 2007

Original: English

Sixty-second session
Agenda item 128
Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council

Thirtieth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council (A/62/512, Add.1-3, Add.4 and Corr.1 and Add.5). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification.

2. In paragraph 30 of his above-mentioned report (A/62/512), the Secretary-General proposes that the General Assembly approve a charge totalling $587,045,200 (net) against the provision for special political missions requested under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. The Advisory Committee recalls that the Assembly, in its resolution 61/254, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee contained in paragraph 11 of its report (A/61/615) for a preliminary estimate of some $4,220 million for the biennium 2008-2009, including a provision of $604,060,100 for the special political missions related to peace and security that are expected to be extended into or approved during the course of the biennium 2008-2009.

3. The report of the Secretary-General under consideration includes the requirements for a total of 26 special political missions authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council as well as resource requirements related to the proposed provision of safe and secure facilities in Baghdad for the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). Of that total, the requirements relate to 25 political offices, peacebuilding missions and sanctions panels authorized by

the Council and one political mission authorized by the Assembly. In connection with the latter, the Advisory Committee recalls that the requirements for the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Myanmar were submitted to the Assembly in the context of the pertinent statement of programme budget implications (see A/C.5/62/13 and A/62/7/Add.18); they are included in the report of the Secretary-General (see A/62/512/Add.1), in line with the Committee's request to consolidate the overall resources for all special political missions (A/57/7/Add.17, para. 5).

4. The Advisory Committee notes from the report of the Secretary-General (A/62/512, para. 6) that the mandates of four missions (the United Nations Tajikistan Office of Peacebuilding (UNTOP), the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General for Africa[1] and the Office of United Nations Representative to the International Advisory and Monitoring Board) were liquidated in 2007.

5. The Advisory Committee also notes that of the 26 missions discussed in the report of the Secretary-General, 6 missions have open-ended mandates, 10 missions have mandates of various dates, ranging from January to October 2008, 1 mission is under consideration by the General Assembly and 9 missions have mandates expiring in December 2007. The Secretary-General indicated that, for the purposes of these estimates, it is assumed that all the missions that have not yet been extended will be extended for periods similar to those approved for 2007 (A/62/512, para. 4). He also indicated that the provisions for the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) for 2008 relate to liquidation requirements of up to seven months (ibid., para. 5).

6. The Secretary-General indicated that, at the time of finalization of his report, it was not clear as to the future status of the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the future status process for Kosovo. Accordingly, no provision has been made for this mission in 2008. With regard to UNMIN, in the absence of a clear indication as to its future, the provisions contained in the present report relate to liquidation requirements of up to seven months. According to the Secretary-General, new mandates for 2008 may arise for the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Lord's Resistance Army-affected areas and the Joint Mediation Support Team for Darfur, for which no provision has been made in the present report. The Advisory Committee notes that any requirements arising out of the establishment of such mandates will be submitted to the General Assembly in a separate report at a later date, in accordance with established procedures.

II. General considerations and recommendations

7. The Advisory Committee points out that its review of this subject was hindered by the late submission of some of the documentation on this subject, with an advance copy of the overview document (A/62/512) being received only on 29 November 2007. As a result, hearings had to begin before the Committee had a full picture of requirements in this area, and the last of the additional information

[1] See exchange of letters between the Secretary-General (S/2005/808) and the President of the Security Council (S/2005/809) concerning the decision of the Secretary-General to extend the appointment of Mr. Mohamed Sahnoun as Special Adviser on Africa until 31 December 2006.

required by the Committee was received only on 11 December. **In order to ensure that the General Assembly has sufficient time and information available when considering this important subject, the Advisory Committee recommends that future budget reports on special political missions be submitted in all official languages no later than the first week of November.**

8. The Advisory Committee welcomes the improvements in the results-based budget submission for special political missions, as well as the presentation of the proposals in thematic clusters and the separate treatment of the larger missions — the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) — in view of their size and complexity, as requested by the Committee (see A/60/7/Add.37, para. 11). The three thematic clusters are:

(a) Thematic cluster I. Special and personal envoys, special advisers and personal representatives of the Secretary-General and the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon (A/62/512/Add.1);

(b) Thematic cluster II. Sanctions monitoring teams, groups and panels (A/62/512/Add.2);

(c) Thematic cluster III. United Nations offices, peacebuilding support offices, integrated offices and commissions (A/62/512/Add.3).

9. **While the Advisory Committee notes the improvements in the budget presentation for special political missions, it is of the opinion that there is room for further improvement in explaining the role of various departments and offices of the Secretariat, regional partners, peacekeeping operations as well as the funds and programmes and other entities of the United Nations system, in providing support to special political missions. In the view of the Committee, the information on the development of a methodology for support arrangements to special political missions contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/62/512, paras. 16-20) is unclear. It is therefore premature, at this stage, to draw any conclusions based on the preliminary aspects of the methodology envisaged, including the reference to 51 additional posts, comprising 25 posts for the Department of Political Affairs and 26 for the Department of Field Support (A/62/512, para. 19). The Committee expects that the methodology for support arrangements to special political missions, which is being developed, will take full account of recent measures, such as strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to manage and sustain peace operations (see General Assembly resolution 61/279) and such decisions as may be taken by the General Assembly on proposals for strengthening the Department of Political Affairs, as well as lessons learned in supporting peacekeeping operations. The Committee intends to revert to this matter in the course of its review of a proposal on this matter that would be presented to the Assembly at a later date.**

10. **As regards the support and management of field operations, the Advisory Committee draws attention to the parallel structures that exist in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs. Both Departments can be assigned as lead departments for the political and substantive operations of field missions. Consequently, there may be duplication and overlap of functions such as planning for the establishment of new field missions and provision of political and substantive direction.**

Furthermore, the basis upon which lead responsibility for a particular mission is assigned to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations or to the Department of Political Affairs is not clear. In this connection, the Committee recalls that in its audit of the management of special political missions by the Department of Political Affairs (A/61/357), the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) pointed out that there were no clear criteria or transparent decision-making mechanisms to determine the lead department for special political missions, and that such a situation increased the risk of misunderstanding among the parties involved concerning their roles and responsibilities.

11. The issue of support for special political missions and coordination between the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations was not addressed in any depth in the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to manage and sustain peace operations (A/61/858 and Corr.1). The Advisory Committee intends to revert to this subject in the context of its consideration of the proposals of the Secretary-General related to the strengthening of the Department of Political Affairs (A/62/521).

12. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that reporting lines both within the areas where special political missions conduct their activities and with Headquarters in New York should be more clearly defined.** Upon enquiry, the Committee was provided with information on titles of personal envoys/special advisers and their grade levels, as follows:

(a) Representatives of the Secretary-General serve at his discretion at the level and title designated by him. Such designation can be prescribed by the Security Council or the General Assembly, and often the Secretary-General advises the Security Council of the appointment of his special representatives for Security Council-mandated peacekeeping and peacebuilding missions;

(b) A Special Representative of the Secretary-General is usually designated at the Under-Secretary-General level as head of a field mission, in accordance with a Security Council or General Assembly mandate (for example the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General for UNAMI and UNAMA). A Deputy Representative of the Secretary-General is appointed at the Assistant Secretary-General level, or lower;

(c) A Special Envoy of the Secretary-General is assigned at the Under-Secretary-General level to undertake a special mission relating to matters of which the Security Council or the General Assembly are seized (for example the Special Envoy for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004)). An Envoy of the Secretary-General is assigned at the Assistant Secretary-General level, or lower;

(d) A Personal Representative of the Secretary-General is assigned at any level to attend specific international conferences, meetings and negotiations on behalf of the Secretary-General;

(e) A Special Adviser to the Secretary-General, normally at the Under-Secretary-General or Assistant Secretary-General level, is assigned to advise the Secretary-General in regard to specific subject matters on an ad hoc basis, normally from United Nations Headquarters (for example the Special Adviser for the Prevention of Genocide);

(f) All of the above can serve either full time or when actually employed, depending on the requirements, as determined by the Secretary-General.

13. With regard to the estimated requirements for the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities, the Advisory Committee recalls that, in its resolution 60/1, the General Assembly set out the policy framework for the responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity and also supported the mission of the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide. In his report of 30 October 2007, the Secretary-General indicated that he had appointed a new Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities at the end of May 2007 and that it was proposed to establish that position at the Under-Secretary-General level (A/62/512/Add.1, paras. 28-38). It was also indicated that, to complement the work of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities, the Secretary-General had decided to appoint a Special Adviser for the Responsibility to Protect at the Assistant Secretary-General level.

14. In this connection, the Advisory Committee notes that, in his letter dated 31 August 2007 to the President of the Security Council (see S/2007/721), the Secretary-General informed the President that he had appointed the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities on a full-time basis, having also decided to change the title of the Special Adviser. He also indicated that he intended to designate a Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect at the Assistant Secretary-General level on a part-time basis, working under the overall guidance of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities. In his reply dated 7 December 2007 (S/2007/722), the President, inter alia, indicated that the members of the Security Council had taken note of the Secretary-General's intention to appoint a Special Adviser on Responsibility to Protect. With respect to the Secretary-General's intention to appoint a full-time successor to the former Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide and to request from the General Assembly an upgrade of the position to the Under-Secretary-General level, he indicated that the members of the Council, being disposed to consider the Secretary-General's proposals favourably, would welcome an outline of the new mandate and further details on the implications of the change in title. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that functions envisaged in the original mandate of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide remain unchanged and are fully applicable to the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities.

15. The Advisory Committee notes that this information, including the proposed full- and part-time nature of the appointments of the Under-Secretary-General and Assistant Secretary-General positions, is not fully reflected in the report of the Secretary-General (A/62/512/Add.1). **The Committee considers that a decision on the proposals of the Secretary-General to upgrade the position of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide from the Assistant Secretary-General to the Under-Secretary-General level for the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities and to establish an Assistant Secretary-General-level position for the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Responsibility to Protect is a policy matter that should be decided by the General Assembly. In this connection, the Committee recommends that fuller information be provided to the Assembly. Consideration of the related resources would depend on this decision by the Assembly.**

16. With regard to the proposals of the Secretary-General for the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, the Advisory Committee is aware that the Secretary-General is proposing the establishment of regional offices in several locations in the context of his proposals for the strengthening of the Department of Political Affairs (see A/62/521). The Committee is of the view that the organization and financing arrangements for the Regional Centre should be considered in the context of the Secretary-General's proposals for the strengthening of the Department of Political Affairs. Accordingly, it does not recommend approval of the related resources under the provision for special political missions.

III. Specific recommendations on resource requirements

17. A summary of the estimated costs of activities of the 26 special political missions for 2008, with the periods covered in the proposed budget, mandates and expiry dates, is contained in table 1 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/62/512). The total estimated requirements for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2008 amount to $587,045,200, with the requirements for the two largest missions, UNAMA ($80.9 million) and UNAMI ($151.1 million), accounting for over $232 million, or 39.5 per cent of the total resources proposed. In addition, the Secretary-General estimates that a provision of $180.1 million would be required for the proposed construction of safe and secure facilities for UNAMI in Baghdad (see para. 87 below).

18. The Advisory Committee notes from table 2 of the report (A/62/512) that expenditures for the biennium 2006-2007 are estimated at $624,621,400 (net), compared with the appropriation of $684,728,200 (net). This would result in an unencumbered balance of $60,106,800 (net) at the end of 2007. The largest amounts of the unencumbered balance are projected under operational costs ($28.4 million), civilian personnel costs ($21.9 million) and military and police personnel ($9.7 million). **Notwithstanding the overall projected unencumbered balances, the Committee notes with concern that travel budgets show cost overruns for almost all missions.** Other comments and observations on the budget implementation for 2006-2007 are provided, where appropriate, as part of the analysis of resource requirements for individual missions.

19. Staffing resources proposed for 2008 total 3,997 positions, as compared to 5,207 authorized for 2007. The two largest missions, UNAMA and UNAMI, account for 2,624 positions, or 66 per cent of the total proposed for 2008 (A/62/512, table 3). The net decrease of 1,210 positions includes the decrease of 482 positions pertaining to missions that were transformed into peacekeeping operations or other operations. The proposed staffing, by cluster, reflects the following changes in overall positions:

(a) Thematic cluster I — an increase of 57 positions;

(b) Thematic cluster II — an increase of 1 position;

(c) Thematic cluster III — a reduction of 786 positions.

Detailed information, comments and recommendations on the proposed staffing for special political missions for 2008 are provided, where appropriate, as part of the analysis of resource requirements for individual missions.

20. The Advisory Committee notes that the proposed staffing for special political missions includes a number of additional positions in the category of local staff, both National Professional Officers and General Service staff. Some of the additional positions are proposed in conjunction with the proposed abolition of international positions. Having reviewed the proposed additional local positions, and in view of its long-standing position on building national capacity, the Committee recommends their acceptance, subject to specific recommendations on individual missions in the paragraphs below, as appropriate. At the same time, the Committee draws the attention of the Secretariat to the high level of vacancies in the category of national staff in a number of missions. The Committee expects that increased efforts will be made to expedite recruitment of staff for special political missions. The comments and recommendations of the Committee on the proposed staffing for special political missions in the paragraphs below concentrate, as appropriate, on international positions.

A. Thematic cluster I
Special and personal envoys, special advisers and personal representatives of the Secretary-General and Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon

21. The estimated requirements for 2008 for special political missions grouped under cluster I amount to $11,940,800 (net). Table 1 provides a breakdown of projected expenditures as at 31 December 2007 and the estimated requirements for 2008 by mission and allows for a comparison between total requirements for 2008, compared to total requirements for 2007.

Table 1

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	1 January 2006-31 December 2007			*Requirements for 2008*		*Analysis 2007-2008*	
Mission	*Appropriations* (1)	*Estimated expenditures* (2)	*Variance* (3)=(1)-(2)	*Total requirements* (4)	*Non-recurrent requirements* (5)	*Total requirements 2007* (6)	*Variance 2007-2008* (7)=(4)-(6)
1. Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Myanmar	220.9	218.4	2.5	781.9	19.3	198.4	583.5
2. Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Cyprus	424.2	52.1	372.1	298.5	—	399.6	(101.1)
3. Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities	1 722.6	1 299.5	423.1	1 902.9	49.0	1 082.5	820.4
4. Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara	635.7	623.2	12.5	867.4	—	352.8	514.6
5. Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004)	1 754.8	1 135.3	619.5	931.0	—	1 091.7	(160.7)

Mission	1 January 2006-31 December 2007 Appropriations (1)	Estimated expenditures (2)	Variance (3)=(1)-(2)	Requirements for 2008 Total requirements (4)	Non-recurrent requirements (5)	Analysis 2007-2008 Total requirements 2007 (6)	Variance 2007-2008 (7)=(4)-(6)
6. Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon	4 284.1	4 830.7	(546.6)	7 159.1	929.2	3 084.2	4 074.9
Total requirements	**9 042.3**	**8 159.2**	**883.1**	**11 940.8**	**997.5**	**6 209.2**	**5 731.6**

22. The approved budget positions under cluster I for 2007, the vacancy situation as at 26 November 2007 and the Secretary-General's proposals for 2008 are summarized in table 2. **The Advisory Committee recommends the continuation in 2008 of positions approved under cluster I for 2007, as adjusted by the proposed abolition of positions for which the Committee recommends approval. The recommendation on the proposed positions of locally recruited staff is contained in paragraph 20 above. As regards new international positions and reclassifications, the observations and recommendations of the Committee are contained in paragraphs below.**

Table 2

Mission	Approved for 2007	Vacant positions	Proposed for 2008	New positions	Abolitions	Reclassifications
1. Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Myanmar	2 (1 USG, 1 LL)	2 (1 USG, 1 LL)	3 (1 USG, 1 P-4, 1 GS (OL))	2 (1 P-4, 1 GS (OL))	1 (1 LL)	
2. Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Cyprus	3 (1 USG, 1 P-4, 1 GS (OL))	3 (1 USG, 1 P-4, 1 GS (OL))	3 (1 USG, 1 P-4, 1 GS (OL))			
3. Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities	4 (1 ASG, 2 P-4, 1 GS (OL))		8 (1 USG, 1 ASG, 1 P-5, 2 P-4, 1 P-3, 2 GS (OL))	4 (1 USG, 1 P-5, 1 P-3, 1 GS (OL))		
4. Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara	1 (1 USG)		1 (1 USG)			
5. Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004)	2 (1 USG,[a] 1 P-4, 1 GS (OL))		2 (1 USG,[a] 1 P-4, 1 GS (OL))			
6. Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon	28	3	80	52		1

[a] Not included in the staff table as the Under-Secretary-General is engaged at a salary of $1.00 per year.

Comments and recommendations on positions

New positions

23. *Two international positions (1 P-4 and 1 GS (OL)) are proposed for the office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Myanmar (see A/62/512/Add.1, para. 13).* The Advisory Committee notes that the proposal for a new General Service (Other level) reflects a conversion of the existing Local level position. **Based on the justification provided in support of the proposed establishment of these positions, the Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the proposal of the Secretary-General.**

24. *Four international positions (1 USG, 1 P-5, 1 P-3 and 1 GS (OL)) are proposed for the Office of the Special Adviser on Genocide and Mass Atrocities (A/62/512/Add.1, paras. 37-38).* The Advisory Committee notes that the P-5 position is proposed to ensure effective coordination between the two Special Advisers. The proposed positions (1 P-3 and 1 GS (OL)) are closely related to the proposal concerning the position of the Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect. **The establishment of these posts will depend on the decision of the General Assembly on the Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities (see para. 15 above).**

25. *Ten international positions are proposed in the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon, as follows: (a) six substantive positions: a Deputy Special Coordinator (ASG), a Director of Political Affairs (D-1), two Political Affairs Officers (1 P-4 and 1 P-3), an Associate Political Affairs Officer (P-2) and a Personal Assistant to the Deputy Special Coordinator (GS (OL)); (b) two administrative positions: a Human Resources Assistant (FS), and a Communications and IT Assistant (1 FS); and (c) two security positions: a Head of the Close Protection (P-2) and a Coordination Officer (FS) (see A/62/512/Add.1, paras. 72-73).* **Based on the justification provided in support of the proposed establishment of these positions, and taking into account its view on proposed positions for locally recruited staff (see para. 20 above), the Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the proposal of the Secretary-General, with the exception of the position of a P-3 Political Officer for Civil Society. In view of the overall capacity of the United Nations in Lebanon, the Committee considers that there is potential for further cooperation and greater synergies in this area.**

Reclassifications

26. *A P-3 position for an Administrative Officer in the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon is proposed to be upgraded to a Senior Administrative Officer (P-5) position (see A/62/512/Add.1, paras. 72-73).* **The Advisory Committee points out that this proposal cannot be considered to be a reclassification, but rather as the abolition of the P-3 position of Administrative Officer and the establishment of a new P-5 position for a Senior Administrative Officer. Based on the justification provided in the budget document, the Committee recommends acceptance of this proposal, adjusted as indicated above.**

Comments and recommendations on operational costs

27. Table 3 provides a breakdown of projected expenditures under operational costs as at 31 December 2007 and gives a comparison between the proposed requirements for 2008 and the approved resources for 2007.

Table 3

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	1 January 2006-31 December 2007			*Requirements for 2008*		*Analysis 2007-2008*	
Category of expenditure	*Appropriations* (1)	*Estimated expenditures* (2)	*Variance* (3)=(1)-(2)	*Total requirements* (4)	*Non-recurrent requirements* (5)	*Total requirements 2007* (6)	*Variance 2007-2008* (7)=(4)-(6)
1. Consultants and experts	388.6	201.2	187.4	252.9	—	252.0	0.9
2. Official travel	1 959.5	1 491.2	468.3	1 867.2	—	1 218.7	648.5
3. Facilities and infrastructure	561.1	460.1	101.0	972.4	453.9	362.1	610.3
4. Ground transportation	703.0	821.6	-118.6	588.3	457.0	468.3	120.0
5. Air transportation	9.3	—	9.3	—	—	9.3	-9.3
6. Communications	204.1	283.0	-78.9	201.2	10.5	135.6	65.6
7. Information technology	47.2	119.8	-72.6	111.5	76.1	26.0	85.5
8. Medical		7.6	-7.6	7.6	—		7.6
9. Other supplies, services and equipment	162.0	210.1	-48.1	235.2	—	105.0	130.2
Total	**4 034.8**	**3 594.6**	**440.2**	**4 236.3**	**997.5**	**2 577.0**	**1 659.3**

28. As shown in table 3, of the total increase of $1,659,300 under operational costs, travel requirements for 2008 reflect an increase of $648,500 (or 53.2 per cent) over the approved level of resources for 2007 and the proposed requirements under facilities and infrastructure would increase from $362,100 in 2007 to $972,400 in 2008, or by 168.5 per cent.

29. The Advisory Committee notes from the documents provided to it that the increase in travel requirements is due largely to increased travel requirements of the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara ($330,900), the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities ($306,700) and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Myanmar ($166,600). The Committee was informed that the increased travel requirements of the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara are due to an increase in the number of negotiation meetings and the higher number of trips planned in connection with the expanded discussions with the parties and neighbouring States in the region. According to the Secretary-General, the increase in travel requirements for the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Myanmar is attributable to the higher number of talks envisaged in the light of the political situation. The increased travel requirements for the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities are mainly the result of the travel requirements of the two Special Advisers for consultations and familiarization visits concerning their respective areas of work compared to the

travel requirements of one Special Adviser in 2007. **The Committee recommends acceptance of the Secretary-General's proposals for travel, except for the provision for the Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities, as this will depend on the decision of the General Assembly in this regard (see para. 15 above).**

30. With regard to the proposed increase of $610,300 under facilities and infrastructure, the Advisory Committee notes from the documents provided that the increase is attributable largely to the anticipated purchase of security equipment, higher rental costs in the commercial building, alteration costs and office furniture and equipment for the 52 proposed additional staff.

31. **Taking into account the justification provided, the Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the proposal of the Secretary-General for operational costs, subject to its recommendation in paragraph 29 above.**

B. Thematic cluster II
Sanctions monitoring teams, groups and panels

32. The estimated requirements for 2008 for special political missions grouped under this cluster amount to $19,659,200 (net). Table 4 provides a breakdown of projected expenditures as at 31 December 2007 and the estimated requirements for 2008 by mission and allows for a comparison between total requirements for 2008 compared to total requirements for 2007.

Table 4

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	1 January 2006-31 December 2007			*Requirements for 2008*		*Analysis 2007-2008*	
Mission	*Appropriations* (1)	*Estimated expenditures* (2)	*Variance* (3)=(1)-(2)	*Total requirements* (4)	*Non-recurrent requirements* (5)	*Total requirements 2007* (6)	*Variance 2007-2008* (7)=(4)-(6)
1. Monitoring Group on Somalia	2 187.4	1 837.8	349.6	1 164.2	—	1 186.1	(21.9)
2. Panel of Experts on Liberia	2 606.9	2 267.2	339.7	853.8	—	1 318.7	(464.9)
3. Group of Experts concerning Côte d'Ivoire	2 180.4	1 811.4	369.0	1 173.1	—	1 223.6	(50.5)
4. Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo	2 714.2	2 517.8	196.4	1 480.6	—	1 423.5	57.1
5. Panel of Experts on the Sudan	3 096.1	2 387.6	708.5	1 601.2	—	1 823.6	(222.4)
6. Analytical Support Sanctions Monitoring Team established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1526 (2004) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities	7 200.8	6 486.7	714.1	3 600.2	—	3 648.8	(48.6)

	1 January 2006-31 December 2007			Requirements for 2008		Analysis 2007-2008	
Mission	Appropriations (1)	Estimated expenditures (2)	Variance (3)=(1)-(2)	Total requirements (4)	Non-recurrent requirements (5)	Total requirements 2007 (6)	Variance 2007-2008 (7)=(4)-(6)
7. Support to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)	4 207.0	3 586.0	621.0	2 280.7	—	2 189.1	91.6
Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate	14 829.7	14 126.9	702.8	7 505.4	—	7 623.8	(118.4)
Total requirements	**39 022.3**	**35 021.4**	**4 001.1**	**19 659.2**	—	**20 437.2**	**(778.0)**

33. The Advisory Committee notes that total projected underexpenditures of $4,001,400 for 2006-2007 represent over 10 per cent of the approved level of resources amounting to $39,022,300. The bulk of projected underexpenditures are under the budget line "Consultants and experts" ($2,403,400). The Committee was informed that this was mainly due to: (a) the delayed recruitment of experts for support to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), as well as higher than anticipated turnover of experts ($601,200); (b) the shorter period of operation of the Panel of Experts on the Sudan (18 months), compared to the budgeted period (22 months) ($510,300); (c) non-engagement of an expert/consultant with specialized expertise on finance for the Monitoring Group on Somalia, as well as a significant decrease in travel since the course of the experts' investigations, especially in 2006, required the members to focus on countries in the region ($319,200); (d) a reduction in the number of experts for the Panel of Experts on Liberia from five to three and corresponding reductions in consultants' travel ($318,200); (e) delays in the hiring of a consultant for the Group of Experts concerning Côte d'Ivoire, lower actual fees paid than budgeted and a shorter period in 2007 during which the Group actually operated for nine months compared to the budgeted period of nine and a half months ($273,800); (f) the engagement of fewer experts (4) than budgeted (5) for the Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the hiring of a consultant for a shorter period of time than originally anticipated; and (g) the delayed recruitment of an expert for the Analytical Support Sanctions Monitoring Team established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1526 (2004) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities, and a corresponding decrease in expenditures under travel of consultants.

34. **As regards the proposed staffing establishment under thematic cluster II, the Advisory Committee recommends the continuation in 2008 of 57 positions (1 ASG, 1 D-2, 2 D-1, 10 P-5, 12 P-4, 12 P-3, 15 GS and 4 LL) approved for 2007.**

35. The Secretary-General also proposes the establishment of an additional P-2 position for the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate. The approved positions of the Directorate, its vacancy situation as at 26 November 2007 and the Secretary-General's proposals for 2008 are summarized in table 5.

Table 5

	Positions	*Level*
Approved positions for 2007	35	1 ASG, 1 D-2, 2 D-1, 9 P-5, 11 P-4, 3 P-3, 8 GS (OL)
Vacant positions as at 26 November 2007	2	1 P-4, 1 P-3
Proposed positions for 2008	36	1 ASG, 1 D-2, 2 D-1, 9 P-5, 11 P-4, 3 P-3, 1 P-2, 8 GS (OL)
New positions	1	1 P-2
Abolition	—	
Redeployments	—	
Reclassification	—	

Comments and recommendations on positions

New positions

36. *One P-2 position is proposed for the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (A/62/512/Add.1, para. 101).* **Based on the justification provided in support of the proposed establishment of this position, the Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the proposal of the Secretary-General.**

Comments and recommendations on operational costs

37. Table 6 provides a breakdown of projected expenditures under operational costs as at 31 December 2007 and allows for a comparison between the proposed requirements for 2008 and the approved resources for 2007.

Table 6

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	1 January 2006-31 December 2007			*Requirements for 2008*		*Analysis 2007-2008*	
Category of expenditure	*Appropriations* (1)	*Estimated expenditures* (2)	*Variance* (3)=(1)-(2)	*Total requirements* (4)	*Non-recurrent requirements* (5)	*Total requirements 2007* (6)	*Variance 2007-2008* (7)=(4)-(6)
1. General temporary assistance	685.5	463.2	222.3	79.2	—	346.8	(267.6)
2. Consultants and experts	16 760.3	14 356.9	2 403.4	8 373.2	—	8 957.4	(584.2)
3. Official travel	2 384.1	2 235.5	148.6	1 357.6	—	1 284.6	73.0
4. Facilities and infrastructure	3 365.2	2 942.6	422.6	1 223.3	—	1 378.5	(155.2)
5. Ground transportation	119.4	148.0	(28.6)	38.9	—	57.9	(19.0)
6. Air transportation	15.0	15.0	—	15.0	—	15.0	—
7. Communications	541.9	532.5	9.4	283.2	—	282.9	0.3
8. Information technology	380.7	265.5	115.2	103.7	—	156.7	(53.0)
9. Other supplies, services and equipment	314.4	312.0	2.4	147.1	—	218.1	(71.0)
Total	**24 566.5**	**21 271.2**	**3 295.3**	**11 621.2**	**—**	**12 697.9**	**(1 076.7)**

38. As shown in table 6, while the overall requirements for 2008 reflect a net resource reduction of $1,076,700, travel requirements for 2008 would increase by $73,000 over the approved level of resources for travel in 2007. The Advisory Committee notes from the documents provided to it that the increase is largely due to an increase of $34,600 in travel requirements of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and an increase of $46,500 for travel requirements of the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate. **Taking into account the justification provided, the Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the Secretary-General's proposal for operational costs.**

C. Thematic cluster III
United Nations offices, peacebuilding support offices, integrated offices and commissions

39. The estimated requirements for 2008 for special political missions grouped under this cluster amount to $143,295,100 (net). Table 7 provides a breakdown of projected expenditures as at 31 December 2007 and the estimated requirements for 2008 by mission and allows for a comparison between total requirements for 2008 compared to total requirements for 2007.

Table 7

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	1 January 2006-31 December 2007			*Requirements for 2008*		*Analysis 2007-2008*	
	Appropriations	*Estimated expenditures*	*Variance*	*Total requirements*	*Non-recurrent requirements*	*Total requirements 2007*	*Variance 2007-2008*
Special political mission	*(1)*	*(2)*	*(3)=(1)-(2)*	*(4)*	*(5)*	*(6)*	*(7)=(4)-(6)*
1. United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa (UNOWA)	7 671.9	6 887.2	784.7	5 373.0	111.9	4 472.0	901.0
2. United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in the Central African Republic (BONUCA)	11 009.2	11 009.2	—	6 409.9	420.4	6 071.9	338.0
3. United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS)	6 221.5	5 456.3	765.2	3 639.8	201.0	3 467.7	172.1
4. United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS)	10 626.8	8 733.9	1 892.9	7 841.6	946.1	6 759.9	1 081.7
5. United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL)	50 197.5	48 749.8	1 447.7	28 161.7	732.1	27 507.7	654.0
6. United Nations Support to the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission (CNMC)	14 338.4	11 921.2	2 417.2	8 273.2	149.5	9 303.0	(1 029.8)

Special political mission	1 January 2006-31 December 2007			Requirements for 2008		Analysis 2007-2008	
	Appropriations	Estimated expenditures	Variance	Total requirements	Non-recurrent requirements	Total requirements 2007	Variance 2007-2008
	(1)	(2)	(3)=(1)-(2)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)=(4)-(6)
7. United Nations International Independent Investigation Commission (UNIIIC)	45 410.1	41 533.7	3 876.4	32 068.6	—	26 205.2	5 863.4
8. United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA)	—	—	—	2 317.5	603.2	—	2 317.5
9. United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB)	33 080.4	25 641.4	7 439.3	32 421.1	107.0	33 080.4	(659.3)
10. United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN)	88 822.0	74 739.3	14 082.7	16 788.7	—	88 822.0	(72 033.3)
Total requirements	**267 377.8**	**234 671.7**	**32 706.1**	**143 295.1**	**3 271.2**	**205 689.8**	**(62 394.7)**

40. The Advisory Committee notes that most of the projected underexpenditures for 2006-2007 relate to the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN), resulting mainly from the lower incumbency rate of arms monitor positions, delayed deployment of police advisers, higher than anticipated vacancy rates in the category of civilian personnel and reduced requirements for vehicle spare parts (since the vehicle fleet is new) and for air transportation (due mainly to the delayed deployment of aircraft). The Committee notes that the budget proposals have been established on the assumption that UNMIN will be terminated during 2008.

41. The approved budget positions under cluster III for 2007, the vacancy situation as at 31 October 2007 (UNOWA, BONUCA, UNIOSIL, CNMC) and as at 26 November 2007 (UNOGBIS, UNPOS, UNIIIC, BINUB, UNMIN), as well as the Secretary-General's proposals for 2008, are summarized in table 8. **The Advisory Committee recommends the continuation in 2008 of positions approved for 2007 as adjusted by the proposed abolition of positions which the Committee approves. The recommendation on the proposed positions of locally recruited staff is contained in paragraph 20 above. The recommendations of the Committee with regard to new international positions, abolitions and reclassifications proposed are outlined in the paragraphs below.**

Table 8

Mission	*Approved for 2007*	*Vacant positions*	*Proposed for 2008*	*New positions*	*Abolitions*	*Reclassifications*
UNOWA	26	9	28	2	None	None
	(1 USG, 1 D-1, 2 P-5, 3 P-4, 2 P-3, 2 FS, 1 GS (OL), 2 NO, 12 LL)	(1 P-5, 2 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 FS, 3 LL)	(1 USG, 1 D-1, 2 P-5, 3 P-4, 2 P-3, 3 FS, 1 GS (OL), 2 NO, 12 LL, 1 UNV)	(1 FS, 1 UNV)		
BONUCA	87	9	89	2	None	1
	(1 ASG, 1 P-5, 4 P-4, 3 P-3, 4 P-2, 6 FS, 9 GS (OL), 55 LL, 4 UNV)	(1 P-4, 2 P-2, 2 GS, 3 LL, 1 UNV)	(1 ASG, 2 P-5, 3 P-4, 3 P-3, 4 P-2, 7 FS, 9 GS, 56 LL, 4 UNV)	(1 FS, 1 LL)		(1 P-4 to 1 P-5)
UNOGBIS	30	7	29	1	2	None
	(1 D-2, 1 P-5, 4 P-4, 3 P-3, 1 FS, 4 GS (OL), 2 NO, 13 LL, 1 UNV)	(1 P-4, 2 P-3, 2 GS (OL), 2 NO)	(1 D-2, 1 P-5, 4 P-4, 3 P-3, 2 FS, 4 GS (OL), 1 NO, 13 LL)	(1 FS)	(1 UNV and 1 NO)	
UNPOS	38	9	39	1	None	1
	(1 ASG, 1 D-1, 3 P-5, 5 P-4, 4 P-3, 5 FS, 4 GS (OL), 7 NO, 8 LL)	(1 D-1, 2 P-5, 3 FS, 3 NO)	(1 USG, 1 D-1, 3 P-5, 5 P-4, 4 P-3, 6 FS, 4 GS (OL), 7 NO, 8 LL)	(1 FS)		(1 ASG to USG)
UNIOSIL	309	23	309	1	1	None
	(1 ASG, 2 D-1, 7 P-5, 12 P-4, 20 P-3, 1 P-2, 43 FS, 17 NO, 182 LL, 24 UNV)	(2 P-4, 4 P-3, 5 FS, 10 LL, 2 UNV)	(1 ASG, 2 D-1, 7 P-5, 12 P-4, 20 P-3, 1 P-2, 42 FS, 17 NO, 182 LL, 25 UNV)	(1 UNV)	(1 FS)	
CNMC	23	4	22	None	1	None
	(2 USG, 1 D-2, 4 P-5, 7 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 GS (OL), 6 LL)	(1 D-2, 1 P-5, 2 P-4)	(2 USG, 1 D-2, 4 P-5, 6 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 GS (OL), 6 LL)		(1 P-4)	
UNIIIC	239	56	253	14	None	None
	(1 USG, 1 D-2, 3 D-1, 12 P-5, 33 P-4, 41 P-3, 5 P-2, 85 FS, 7 GS (OL), 4 NO, 47 LL)	(1 D-2, 2 D-1, 6 P-5, 11 P-4, 13 P-3, 3 P-2, 15 FS, 3 LL, 2 NO)	(1 USG, 1 D-2, 3 D-1, 12 P-5, 33 P-4, 42 P-3, 5 P-2, 92 FS, 7 GS (OL), 4 NO, 53 LL)	(1 P-3, 7 FS, 6 LL)		
UNRCCA	None	None	19	19	None	None
			(1 ASG, 1 P-5, 2 P-4, 1 P-3, 2 FS, 12 LL)	(1 ASG, 1 P-5, 2 P-4, 1 P-3, 2 FS, 12 LL)		
BINUB	427	32	430	3	None	None
	(1 ASG, 1 D-2, 4 D-1, 7 P-5, 26 P-4, 30 P-3, 4 P-2, 68 FS, 18 NO, 217 LL, 51 UNV)	(1 D-1, 1 P-5, 4 P-4, 13 P-3, 1 P-2, 4 FS, 1 NO, 3 NGS, 4 UNV)	(1 ASG, 1 D-2, 4 D-1, 7 P-5, 27 P-4, 31 P-3, 4 P-2, 68 FS, 18 NO, 218 LL, 51 UNV)	(1 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 LL)		

Mission	*Approved for 2007*	*Vacant positions*	*Proposed for 2008*	*New positions*	*Abolitions*	*Reclassifications*
UNMIN	918 (1 USG, 1 ASG, 7 D-1, 16 P-5, 41 P-4, 102 P-3, 12 P-2, 91 FS, 258 UNV, 49 NO, 340 LL)	218 (2 P-5, 6 P-4, 19 P-3, 2 P-2, 16 FS, 85 UNV, 18 NUNV, 11 NO, 58 LL)	None	None	918 (Anticipated liquidation of Mission with gradual reduction of staffing complement)	None

Comments and recommendations on positions

New positions

42. *Two international positions (1 FS, Finance Assistant, and 1 UNV, Aviation Assistant/Flight Controller) are proposed for the United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa (see A/62/512/Add.3, para. 14); one international position (1 FS, Facilities Management Assistant) is proposed for the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in the Central African Republic (ibid., para. 31); one international position (FS, Finance Assistant) is proposed for the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (ibid., para. 47); one Field Service position is proposed for a Human Rights Assistant in the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (ibid., para. 68); one United Nations Volunteers position is proposed for an Information Technology Security Officer in the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (ibid., para. 84); eight international positions (1 P-3, Close Protection Coordinator, and 7 FS, Security Officers) are proposed for UNIIIC (ibid., paras. 111-112); and two international positions (1 P-4, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, and 1 P-3, Political Affairs Officer) are proposed for BINUB.* **Based on the justification provided in support of the proposed establishment of these positions, the Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the proposal of the Secretary-General.**

43. *Seven international positions (1 ASG, 1 P-5, 2 P-4 and 1 P-3) and 12 Local level positions are proposed for the United Nations Regional Centre for Central Asia (A/62/512/Add.3, paras. 122-123).* **The Advisory Committee will address these proposals in the context of its consideration of the proposals for the strengthening of the Department of Political Affairs (A/62/521) (see para. 16 above).**

Reclassifications

44. *One P-4 position of the Chief of the Human Rights Section is proposed for reclassification at the P-5 level in the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in the Central African Republic (see A/62/512/Add.3, para. 30).* **Based on the justification provided in support of the proposed reclassification, the Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the proposal of the Secretary-General.**

45. *One ASG position of the head of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia is proposed for reclassification at the Under-Secretary-General level (see A/62/512/Add.3, para. 68).* **Based on the justification provided in support of the proposed reclassification, the Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the proposal of the Secretary-General.**

Comments and recommendations on operational costs

46. Table 9 provides a breakdown of projected expenditures under operational costs as at 31 December 2007 and allows for a comparison between the proposed requirements for 2008 and the approved resources for 2007.

Table 9

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	1 January 2006-31 December 2007			*Requirements for 2008*		*Analysis 2007-2008*	
Category of expenditure	*Appropriations* (1)	*Estimated expenditures* (2)	*Variance* (3)=(1)-(2)	*Total requirements* (4)	*Non-recurrent requirements* (5)	*Total requirements 2007* (6)	*Variance 2007-2008* (7)=(4)-(6)
1. General temporary assistance	210.5	190.7	19.8	—	—	177.4	(177.4)
2. Consultants and experts	7 100.2	6 147.0	953.2	3 815.2	—	4 436.4	(621.2)
3. Official travel	13 238.9	13 342.8	(103.9)	8 470.7	5.3	7 795.3	675.4
4. Facilities and infrastructure	21 819.3	18 254.6	3 564.8	8 872.8	317.3	18 389.8	(9 517.0)
5. Ground transportation	16 792.0	15 946.2	845.8	8 090.8	636.6	11 900.9	(3 810.1)
6. Air transportation	25 811.5	20 903.6	4 907.9	11 218.3	693.9	23 068.3	(11 850.0)
7. Naval transportation	1 069.9	1 138.2	(68.3)	919.1	219.8	581.5	337.6
8. Communications	20 549.3	18 062.2	2 487.1	6 463.3	944.0	18 284.2	(11 820.9)
9. Information technology	11 136.7	10 013.9	1 122.8	3 105.6	441.6	9 411.2	(6 305.6)
10. Medical	2 179.8	1 770.4	409.4	719.5	—	2 113.1	(1 393.6)
11. Other supplies, services and equipment	7 483.2	7 167.3	315.9	2 818.8	11.2	5 966.1	(3 147.3)
Total	**127 391.4**	**112 936.9**	**14 454.5**	**54 494.1**	**3 269.7**	**102 124.2**	**(47 630.1)**

47. The Advisory Committee notes that although the overall requirements for 2008 reflect a net resource reduction of $47,630,100, travel requirements for 2008 would increase by $675,400 over the approved level of $7,795,300 for 2007, or by 8.7 per cent. The Committee also notes that travel expenditures for 2006-2007 are projected to exceed the approved level of resources by $103,900.

48. The Advisory Committee notes from the documents provided to it that the total increase in travel requirements for 2008 falls mainly under the following missions: UNIIIC — $291,200; CNMC — $164,900; UNIOSIL — $117,600; and UNRCCA — $111,000 (new requirements).

49. With regard to official travel for UNIIIC for 2008, the Advisory Committee was informed that the increase in travel requirements reflected an increased number of trips, as the number of witnesses to be interviewed had increased substantially compared to 2007. In addition, the Committee was informed that owing to the increased threat profile for the Commissioner, it was required that the Commissioner be accompanied by two Security Officers on his overseas trips for close protection, for which no provision had been included in 2007. The Committee was also informed of projected savings of $273,200 under official travel for UNIIIC for 2006-2007 that were due mainly to a disruption in investigation travel caused by a

series of unpredictable external events in 2006, including the hostilities which had caused a temporary relocation to Cyprus in August 2006 (see A/61/640, para. 59).

50. The Advisory Committee was informed that increased requirements for CNMC for 2008 compared to 2007 were attributable mainly to the increase in field assessment missions, including missions for resolution of problems, supervision and certification of demarcation contracts owing to an increase in the number of assessment teams.

51. With regard to official travel for UNIOSIL for 2008, the Advisory Committee was informed that the increase in travel requirements reflected travel necessary for attending meetings of the Peacebuilding Commission at Headquarters, increased regional consultations and training as well as an increase in the daily subsistence allowance rates for the main locations of travel — Headquarters and Brindisi. The Committee was also informed that estimated overexpenditure under official travel for 2006-2007 ($54,000) was attributable mainly to an increase of within-mission travel, which resulted from a higher than planned frequency of meetings of substantive offices in order to better coordinate and exchange information about the election process.

52. **The Advisory Committee will address the proposals for resource requirements for UNRCCA in the context of its consideration of the proposals for the strengthening of the Department of Political Affairs (A/62/521) (see para. 16 above).**

53. **Taking into account the justification provided, the Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the Secretary-General's proposal for operational costs, except as outlined in paragraph 52 above.**

IV. United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

54. The resource requirements for UNAMA for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2008 are estimated to be $80,923,900 net ($88,363,900 gross). These requirements, reflecting a net increase of $23,024,600 (or 39.8 per cent) over the gross requirements for 2007, include $1,148,100 for military and police personnel (1 Military Adviser, 19 Military Liaison Officers and 8 Civilian Police Advisers), $47,759,500 for civilian personnel (1,586 positions) and $32,016,300 for operational costs. The increase is due mainly to the proposed establishment of 69 additional positions (27 international and 32 national positions, and 10 United Nations Volunteers), costs associated with the construction of additional accommodation units and office buildings in Kabul and the acquisition of additional vehicles for the regional and subregional (provincial) offices.

55. Table 10 provides a breakdown of projected expenditures as at 31 December 2007 and the estimated requirements for 2008, and allows for a comparison between total requirements for 2008 compared to total requirements for 2007.

Table 10
(Thousands of United States dollars)

	1 January 2006-31 December 2007			*Requirements for 2008*		*Analysis 2007-2008*	
	Appropriations	*Estimated expenditures*	*Variance*	*Total requirements*	*Non-recurrent requirements*	*Total requirements 2007*	*Variance 2007-2008*
Category of expenditure	*(1)*	*(2)*	*(3)=(1)-(2)*	*(4)*	*(5)*	*(6)*	*(7)=(4)-(6)*
Military and police personnel costs	1 513.7	1 501.7	12.0	1 148.1	—	891.8	256.3
Civilian personnel cost	74 217.2	73 060.6	1 156.6	47 759.5	—	34 354.6	13 404.9
Operational costs	47 743.6	48 908.5	(1 164.9)	32 016.6	6 301.1	22 652.9	9 363.4
Total requirements	**123 474.5**	**123 470.8**	**3.7**	**80 923.9**	**6 301.1**	**57 899.3**	**23 024.6**

Military and police personnel

56. The proposed requirements of $780,100 for military personnel reflect an increase of 2 Military Liaison Officers and would provide for the deployment of a total of 1 Military Adviser and 19 Military Liaison Officers. The estimated requirements for civilian police ($368,000) would provide for the deployment of eight Civilian Police Advisers, an increase of five Civilian Police Advisers. **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposed increase in resource requirements for military and civilian police personnel.**

Civilian personnel

57. The proposed staffing for UNAMA of 1,586 positions (196 Professional and above, 97 Field Service, 17 General Service (Other level), 173 National Officers and 1,060 National General Service (Local level) and 43 United Nations Volunteers) reflects an increase of 27 international positions (1 P-5, 7 P-4, 12 P-3, 2 P-2 and 5 Field Service), 32 national staff (2 National Officers, 30 Local level) and 10 United Nations Volunteers. The approved positions of the Mission, its vacancy situation as at 31 October 2007, as well as the Secretary-General's proposals for 2008, are summarized in table 11. **The recommendation of the Advisory Committee on the proposed positions of locally recruited staff is contained in paragraph 20 above. The Committee recommends the continuation of the 1,517 positions approved for 2007, as summarized in table 11. The conclusions and recommendations of the Committee regarding the new international positions proposed for 2008 are outlined in the paragraphs below.**

Table 11

	Positions	*Level*
Approved positions for 2007	1 517	1 USG, 2 ASG, 1 D-2, 7 D-1, 23 P-5, 61 P-4, 60 P-3, 19 P-2, 92 FS, 17 GS, 171 NO, 1,030 LL, 33 UNV
Vacant positions as at 31 October 2007	231	2 D-1, 6 P-5, 22 P-4, 15 P-3, 3 P-2, 10 FS, 3 GS, 44 NPO, 124 NS, 2 UNV
Proposed positions for 2008	1 586	1 USG, 2 ASG, 1 D-2, 7 D-1, 24 P-5, 68 P-4, 72 P-3, 21 P-2, 97 FS, 17 GS, 173 NO, 1,060 LL, 43 UNV
New positions	69	1 P-5, 7 P-4, 12 P-3, 2 P-2, 5 FS, 2 NO, 30 LL, 10 UNV
Abolition	—	
Redeployments	—	
Reclassification	—	

Comments and recommendations on positions

New positions

58. *Twenty-two international substantive positions are proposed as follows: (a) one P-5 position for the functions of Senior Coordination Adviser in the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator Unit (see A/62/512/Add.4, paras. 44-46); (b) seven P-4 positions: four positions for Rule of Law Officers in the regional and subregional (provinces) offices (ibid., para. 51); one position for the functions of Child Protection Adviser in the Human Rights Unit (ibid., paras. 20-22); one position for the functions related to housing and property in the Rule of Law Unit (ibid., paras. 26-31); and one position for Head of Information within the Joint Military Analysis Centre (ibid., para. 35); (c) 12 P-3 positions: 9 positions for the functions of Political Affairs Officers in the regional and subregional (provinces) offices (ibid., paras. 48-50); one position for the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (ibid., para. 18); one position for the functions of Political Affairs Officer in the Office of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (ibid., paras. 23-25); one position for the Air Operations/Movement Control Section of the Administration (ibid., para. 94); and (d) two P-2 positions for the functions of Associate Political Affairs Officers in the regional and subregional (provinces) offices (ibid., paras. 59-61).* **Based on the justification provided in support of the proposed establishment of these positions, the Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the proposal of the Secretary-General.**

59. *Five Field Service administrative positions are proposed as follows: (a) one position for the Personnel Section (see A/62/512/Add.4, para. 73); (b) one position for an Asset Disposal Unit to be established within the General Services Section (ibid., para. 79); (c) one position for the Engineering Section (ibid., para. 82); (d) one position for the Supply Section (ibid., paras. 86-87); and (e) one position for the Surface Transport Section (ibid., paras. 90-91).* **Based on the justification provided in support of the proposed establishment of these positions, the Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the proposal of the Secretary-General.**

60. *Ten United Nations Volunteers positions are proposed as follows: two positions for Political Affairs Officers in the Political Affairs Unit (see A/62/512/Add.4, para. 33) and eight positions for the Engineering Section of the Administration (ibid., para. 82).* **Based on the justification provided in support of the proposed establishment of these positions, the Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the proposal of the Secretary-General.**

Comments and recommendations on operational costs

61. Table 12 provides a breakdown of projected expenditures under operational costs as at 31 December 2007 and allows for a comparison between the proposed requirements for 2008 and the approved resources for 2007.

Table 12

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	1 January 2006-31 December 2007			*Requirements for 2008*		*Analysis 2007-2008*	
Category of expenditure	*Appropriations* (1)	*Estimated expenditures* (2)	*Variance* (3)=(1)-(2)	*Total requirements* (4)	*Non-recurrent requirements* (5)	*Total requirements 2007* (6)	*Variance 2007-2008* (7)=(4)-(6)
Consultants and experts	411.5	447.2	(35.7)	227.3	—	154.3	73.0
Official travel	2 070.9	2 465.3	(394.4)	1 127.7	—	1 012.1	115.6
Facilities and infrastructure	11 390.1	13 127.3	(1 737.2)	8 476.6	970.2	4 834.5	3 642.1
Ground transportation	5 448.9	5 029.7	419.2	5 514.5	3 826.0	1 611.8	3 902.7
Air transportation	17 952.8	18 383.2	(430.4)	11 725.6	48.0	10 372.7	1 352.9
Communications	5 547.2	5 181.4	365.8	2 442.7	732.5	2 660.7	(218.0)
Information technology	2 912.8	2 369.3	543.5	1 581.3	672.0	1 463.5	117.8
Medical	451.7	451.7	—	306.4	—	108.8	197.6
Other supplies, services and equipment	1 557.7	1 453.4	104.3	614.2	52.4	434.5	179.7
Total	**47 743.6**	**48 908.5**	**(1 164.9)**	**32 016.3**	**6 301.1**	**22 652.9**	**9 363.4**

62. The Advisory Committee notes that a major portion of the total increase of $9,363,400 under operational costs falls under ground transportation ($3,902,700), facilities and infrastructure ($3,642,100) and air transportation ($1,352,900).

63. The Advisory Committee notes from the report (see A/62/512/Add.4, paras. 122-125) that the increase under ground transportation is due mainly to the proposed acquisition of 23 additional armoured vehicles for deployment to the Mission's regional and subregional (provincial) offices and to the scheduled replacement of 43 vehicles. The proposed acquisition of additional armoured vehicles responds to the need to enhance the security and safety of Mission staff in the light of the deteriorating security situation in the region.

64. The Advisory Committee notes the projected cost overrun of $1,737,200 under facilities and infrastructure for 2006-2007, compared to the approved level of resources. As indicated in the budget document, the cost overrun is due mainly to: (a) unforeseen additional requirements for construction services and equipment and

furnishing of staff accommodations in nine subregional (provincial) offices scheduled for completion in November 2007; and (b) unforeseen additional requirements for the deployment of Gurkha security officers to enhance the security of field offices in Kandahar and Qalat in view of the deteriorating security situation in the region.

65. Increased requirements for facilities and infrastructure for 2008 are due mainly to: (a) increased requirements for security and safety equipment, and firefighting equipment to properly equip all Mission premises and fire wardens with necessary firefighting equipment; and (b) increased requirements for security services and alteration and construction services to enhance and support the regional and subregional (provincial) offices (see A/62/512/Add.4, paras. 118-120).

66. As indicated in the report (A/62/512/Add.4, para. 129), increased requirements for air transportation for 2008 are due mainly to the proposed incorporation in the Mission's air fleet of one additional fixed-wing and one rotary-wing aircraft and their associated operational costs. As regards the projected overexpenditure of $430,400 during 2006-2007, the Advisory Committee notes that it is due mainly to the rental and operation of an additional rotary-wing aircraft for which no provision was made, partially offset by the reduction of one narrow body fixed-wing aircraft within the fleet and the associated savings under fuel.

67. **Taking into account the justification provided, the Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the Secretary-General's proposal for operational costs.**

V. United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq

A. Continuing operations

68. The resource requirements for UNAMI are estimated to be $151,076,200 net ($157,758,900 gross). In addition, the Secretary-General estimates that resources amounting to $180.1 million would be required for the proposed provision of safe and secure facilities in Baghdad for UNAMI (see section B below).

69. Table 13 provides a breakdown of projected expenditures as at 31 December 2007 and the estimated requirements for 2008 and allows for a comparison between total requirements for 2008 compared to total requirements for 2007.

Table 13

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	1 January 2006-31 December 2007			*Requirements for 2008*		*Analysis 2007-2008*	
Category of expenditure	*Appropriations* (1)	*Estimated expenditures* (2)	*Variance* (3)=(1)-(2)	*Total requirements* (4)	*Non-recurrent requirements* (5)	*Total requirements 2007* (6)	*Variance 2007-2008* (7)=(4)-(6)
Military and civilian police personnel costs	30 233.2	22 897.9	7 335.3	14 920.7	—	11 818.8	3 101.9
Civilian personnel cost	121 120.2	117 361.3	3 758.9	70 672.6	—	56 897.5	13 775.1
Operational costs	94 457.7	83 039.1	11 418.6	65 482.9	20 683.3	58 274.2	7 208.7
Total	**245 811.1**	**223 298.3**	**22 512.8**	**151 076.2**	**20 683.3**	**126 990.5**	**24 085.7**

Military and police personnel

70. The proposed requirements of $14,920,700 would provide for the deployment of eight Military Liaison Officers and a total of 298 personnel of guard units, including 223 already on the ground and an additional 75 personnel (see A/62/512/Add.5, paras. 51-53). **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposed requirement.**

Civilian personnel

71. The proposed staffing for UNAMI of 1,038 civilian personnel, comprising 446 international staff (209 Professional positions and 237 positions in the Field Service and General Service categories) and 592 national staff (97 National Officers and 495 General Service (Local level) staff), 8 Military Liaison Officers and 298 contingent personnel, reflects a net decrease of 17 international positions (2 Professional and 15 Field Service) and a net increase of 41 national staff positions. The approved positions of the Mission, its vacancy situation as at 31 October 2007, as well as the Secretary-General's proposals for 2008, are summarized in table 14. **The Advisory Committee recommends continuation in 2008 of the positions approved for 2007, as adjusted by the proposed abolition of positions, which the Committee recommends for approval, as summarized below. The recommendation on the proposed positions of locally recruited staff is contained in para. 20 above. The conclusions and recommendations of the Committee regarding the new international positions, abolitions and the reclassification proposed for 2008, are outlined in paragraphs below.**

Table 14

	Positions	*Level*
Approved positions for 2007	1 014	1 USG; 2 ASG; 2 D-2; 8 D-1;19 P-5; 70 P-4; 81 P-3; 28 P-2; 249 FS; 3 GS (OL); 82 NO; 469 LL
Vacant positions as at 26 November 2007	359	1 D-2; 1 D-1; 8 P-5; 25 P-4; 45 P-3; 21 P-2; 78 FS; 2 GS (OL); 50 NO; 128 LL
Proposed positions for 2008	1 038	1 USG; 2 ASG; 2 D-2; 9 D-1; 20 P-5; 71 P-4; 80 P-3; 24 P-2; 234 FS; 3 GS (OL); 97 NO; 495 LL
New positions	43	1 D-1; 1 P-5; 15 NO; 26 LL
Abolition	19	4 P-2; 15 FS
Redeployments	—	
Reclassification	1	1 P-3 reclassified to 1 P-4

Comments and recommendations on positions

New positions

72. *One D-1 position is proposed for the Office of the Principal Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General Chief of Staff and one P-5 Medical Officer position is proposed for the Medical Services (see A/62/512/Add.5, paras. 20, 39 and 40).* **Based on the justification provided in support of the proposed establishment of this position, the Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the proposal of the Secretary-General.**

Reclassifications

73. *One P-3 position of Reporting Officer in the Electoral Assistance Office is proposed for reclassification to a P-4 position of External Relations Officer (see A/62/512/Add.5, para. 25).* **Based on the justification provided in support of the proposed reclassification, the Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the proposal of the Secretary-General.**

Internal redeployments

74. The Advisory Committee notes that the proposed staffing establishment of the Mission contains a number of internal redeployments of staff among various organizational units. **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposed redeployments.**

Comments and recommendations on operational costs

75. Table 15 provides a breakdown of operational costs by object of expenditure and allows for a comparison between the proposed requirements for 2008 and the approved resources for 2007.

Table 15

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	1 January 2006-31 December 2007			*Requirements for 2008*		*Analysis 2007-2008*	
Category of expenditure	*Appropriations* (1)	*Estimated expenditures* (2)	*Variance* (3)=(1)-(2)	*Total requirements* (4)	*Non-recurrent requirements* (5)	*Total requirements 2007* (6)	*Variance 2007-2008* (7)=(4)-(6)
1. Consultants	864.9	695.0	169.9	896.6	—	135.2	761.4
2. Official travel	3 432.9	5 705.2	(2 272.3)	2 195.8	—	1 604.4	591.4
3. Facilities and infrastructure	31 014.3	36 465.1	(5 450.8)	13 534.0		19 594.5	(6 060.5)
4. Ground transportation	12 223.3	14 978.3	(2 755.0)	16 842.5	15 697.5	10 622.4	6 220.1
5. Air transportation	21 436.9	5 931.8	15 505.1	16 233.8	—	13 288.6	2 945.2
6. Communications	11 295.1	8 019.9	3 275.2	5 759.4	2 327.6	4 817.1	942.3
7. Information technology	6 011.6	6 137.3	(125.7)	4 096.5	2 485.0	2 780.7	1 315.8
8. Medical	864.0	548.2	315.8	836.0	77.2	395.4	440.6
9. Special equipment	20.5	17.3	3.2	95.0	93.2	20.5	74.5
10. Other supplies, services and equipment	7 294.2	4 541.0	2 753.2	4 993.3	2.8	5 015.4	(22.1)
Total	**94 457.7**	**83 039.1**	**11 418.6**	**65 482.8**	**20 683.3**	**58 274.2**	**7 208.7**

76. As shown in the table, the proposed net increase of $7.2 million under operational costs reflects resource growth under several budget lines, including ground transportation ($6.2 million), air transportation ($2.9 million), information technology ($1.3 million), communications ($0.9 million), consultants ($0.8 million), official travel ($0.6 million) and medical ($0.4 million). These increases would be partially offset by reduced requirements under facilities and infrastructure ($6.1 million).

77. The Advisory Committee notes from the budget document that the increase in requirements under ground transportation is attributable mainly to the acquisition of additional armoured vehicles in the context of the Mission's decision to move towards greater self-reliance, and to the security situation. The proposed estimated requirements would provide for the acquisition of 56 armoured vehicles (25 replacements) and 10 trailers, the rental of a crane, repairs and maintenance, liability insurance, spare parts and petrol, oil and lubricants.

78. The increase under air transportation is attributable mainly to the change in the use of fixed-wing aircraft, from a cargo plane in 2007 to a Lear jet in 2008, and the associated increased flight-hour costs, as well as the increase in flight-hour costs for helicopters.

79. Increased requirements under information technology are attributable mainly to the projected purchases of additional communications equipment, higher communications charges, the need to improve the communications network and to replace equipment, as well as to the anticipated expansion of activities of the Mission.

80. As indicated in the budget document, the increased requirements under consultants are attributable mainly to the need for recourse to the services of specialized consultants in the working groups on energy, border security and refugees, as well as to the provision for consultants for training, for which no budgetary provision was included in 2007.

81. The additional requirements for official travel reflect mainly the anticipated increased travel within Iraq and the increased participation of UNAMI personnel in conferences and workshops. The Advisory Committee notes that the total proposed provision of $2.2 million includes requirements for the travel of senior Mission staff for political consultations, participation in conferences and workshops ($515,400), travel within the Mission area and, in connection with Mission planning and administrative support, between Mission locations ($920,000), and travel of Headquarters staff to the Mission area to provide political, electoral, logistical and safety and security support ($417,000). The provision also includes total requirements of $343,400 for training in security matters, in administrative areas and in humanitarian affairs, human rights and conflict resolution.

82. The Advisory Committee notes from the budget document that the increased medical requirements are attributable essentially to additional requirements for the acquisition of medical supplies for the UNAMI level-I clinics in Iraq as UNAMI moves towards self-reliance and increased requirements for medical evacuations, hospitalizations and specialist consultations with staff from the Multinational Force level-II to level-IV clinics in Iraq owing to the prevailing security situation.

Relocation of the Kuwait office to Amman

83. The Advisory Committee notes that it is proposed to consolidate the Mission's out-of-country offices in Kuwait and Amman into one location in Jordan. **The Committee considers that insufficient information was provided in the budget document as to the costs and advantages expected from this consolidation. It is of the view that such proposals should be based on a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis and that complete information should be provided to support effective decision-making.**

84. Upon enquiry, however, the Committee was provided additional information on the proposed consolidation of offices, indicating that there are logistical and security advantages to the move. In 2004, UNAMI was able to use its existing premises in the Kheitan compound to establish an office in Kuwait and deploy rapidly. Since then, the Mission has established operational offices in Baghdad, at the Baghdad International Airport, Erbil and Amman. At present, the Kuwait office houses the administration of the Mission only, thereby creating duplication with the office in Amman. Furthermore, no substantive functions are carried out from the Kuwait office. The Mission considers that it is not cost-effective to operate a large compound solely for UNAMI administrative functions and therefore proposes to consolidate the Kuwait and Amman offices in Amman.

85. The Advisory Committee was informed that the anticipated costs related to the transfer of the Kuwait office would be limited to the cost of transport of certain information and communications technology and other technical equipment to be transferred to Amman. UNAMI expects to realize savings as a result of the move owing to reduced requirements for international staff, mission subsistence allowance, security contracts and equipment, fewer vehicles, furniture and other equipment. Additional savings are expected under air operations, with a reduction in the number of destinations to be served. The Mission also expects to improve the quality and timeliness of administrative support provided to its offices in Baghdad, Erbil, Baghdad International Airport and Amman as a consequence of this consolidation.

86. The Advisory Committee notes that the changes in organizational structure resulting from the consolidation at the new location will be submitted in the context of the budget proposal for 2009/10. **The Committee also requests that the costs and savings, as well as other benefits resulting from these measures, be fully reported in the context of the performance report for the 2008/09 period.**

B. Proposal for the provision of safe and secure facilities for the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq

87. Part two of the Secretary-General's report on the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (A/62/512/Add.5) contains proposals for the construction of a hardened, integrated compound in the international zone in Baghdad to serve as the integrated headquarters of UNAMI. The preliminary cost estimates for the compound, provided in section XIV of the budget proposal (A/62/512/Add.5, paras. 140-142), would range from $185,150,000 to $190,150,000. This includes an amount between $12,250,000 and $17,250,000 for the design phase; $108.4 million for the construction of the compound, including workshops, warehouses, facilities for staff welfare, infrastructure and external works; $9.5 million for supplies and equipment; $6.6 million for specialized information and communications technology equipment; $23.5 million for miscellaneous costs, such as project coordination and management, security, currency fluctuations and inflation; and $24.9 million (20 per cent) for construction contingencies.

88. Given the security risks currently faced by the Mission, the Advisory Committee fully recognizes the need to ensure the safety and security of United Nations personnel in order for the United Nations to operate effectively. **However, the Committee has identified a number of deficiencies in the Secretary-**

General's proposal, as well as issues that need to be clarified before the proposal can be considered by the General Assembly. Among these are, for example:

- The precise nature of the requirement for the United Nations office in Baghdad, taking into account the Secretary-General's perspective on the overall presence of the United Nations in Iraq, in view of the fact that the life expectancy of the compound is estimated to be 25 years
- The existence and terms of the agreements, including on cost-sharing, with other United Nations entities to be housed in the compound
- The actual cash-flow requirements
- The provision of technically qualified supervision by United Nations staff
- A determination as to whether the appropriate administrative procedures have been followed in the elaboration of the proposal for a project of the magnitude envisaged, including whether such requirements should be submitted centrally under section 32, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, of the programme budget
- The level of the financial and other contributions by the Government of Iraq and the precise terms of the agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Iraq

Contribution of the Government of Iraq

89. Some information is provided in section VIII (A/62/512, paras. 106-108) on support to the United Nations from the Government of Iraq. The Advisory Committee notes that it is the understanding of the Secretariat that the Government of Iraq would contribute towards the construction of the facility and that full details would be provided to the General Assembly as they become available (ibid., para. 108). Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the Office of the Secretary-General had received a letter from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq indicating that the Government of Iraq intended to make a financial contribution for the construction of UNAMI headquarters. **The Committee stresses the need to obtain details on the level of the contribution of the Government of Iraq in order to allow the General Assembly to make an informed decision on the proposal.**

90. The Advisory Committee also notes that the Government of Iraq has provided UNAMI with a 10-year lease for the site where the long-term integrated compound would be located (see A/62/512, para. 108). At the same time, the Secretary-General indicates that the functional life expectancy of building components and major equipment would be 25 years (ibid., para. 114). **The Committee is concerned by the discrepancy between the period of the lease of the site and the "life expectancy" of the facility, and the resulting uncertainty regarding the United Nations future financial liability with regard to this site. It believes that there should be clarity on the commitments that the Organization is entering into and that further information should be provided on future arrangements, once the 10-year period of the lease has expired.**

91. Furthermore, the Advisory Committee was informed that the status-of-mission agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Iraq, which was

signed in June 2005, would enter into effect on the basis of an exchange of diplomatic notes between the United Nations and the Government of Iraq, subject to ratification by the Parliament. The United Nations understands that the Government of Iraq has not yet been able to place the status-of-mission agreement before the Parliament for ratification, owing to a long backlog of pending legislation. In this connection, the Committee notes that the deployment of staff in Erbil and Baghdad is subject to the provisions of the agreement. **The Committee urges UNAMI to pursue its efforts to conclude the agreement.**

United Nations staffing levels
Participation of other United Nations funds and programmes and specialized agencies

92. As indicated above, the planned life expectancy of the integrated headquarters compound is estimated to be 25 years. Such long-term commitments are unusual in the context of special political missions. It is therefore essential that the Secretary-General set out, in as much detail and as clearly as possible, his vision concerning the long-term presence of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, as well as his assessment of the possible scenarios for the evolution of the situation in Iraq.

93. In paragraph 113 of document A/62/512/Add.5, the Secretary-General provides some details on the assumptions of staff strength underlying the plan for the integrated compound in Baghdad. These are based on 180 United Nations international staff (comprising UNAMI, funds and programmes and specialized agencies), 150 national staff, 160 members of a United Nations guard force and 75 contractual staff. The Advisory Committee notes that little concrete information is provided on the other organizations that would be housed in the new compound, whether any agreements have been made or such negotiations are under way. **The Committee is of the view that specific information on the participation of other United Nations entities in the project should be provided in order to allow the General Assembly to make an informed decision. This should include, for example, their willingness to be co-located in the compound and cost-sharing arrangements.**

94. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided additional information on the actual international staff present in Iraq in November 2007 in Baghdad, which showed that there were some 74 UNAMI and 5 staff members from funds and programmes. The limited number of UNAMI staff is due to ceilings imposed on the numbers of staff in Iraq for security reasons. As indicated in paragraph 99 of the aforementioned document, the United Nations country team, consisting of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, is based in Amman.

Administrative procedures

95. The Advisory Committee notes that in a letter dated 25 June 2007 (S/2007/412), the Secretary-General advised the Security Council of his intention to make arrangements for the expeditious construction of a new United Nations facility in Baghdad, including funding of the new construction, within the framework of the budget provisions for special political missions, and that the Council expressed its support for the proposal in a letter dated 6 July 2007 from the President of the Council to the Secretary-General (S/2007/413) (see A/62/512/Add.5, para. 86). Subsequently, in a letter dated 23 July 2007 from the Controller to the Chairman of

the Advisory Committee, the Committee was informed of the Secretary-General's intention to proceed with the immediate planning for the construction of a United Nations integrated headquarters compound in Baghdad. **The Committee recalls that in its letter of 27 July 2007 in response to the Secretary-General, it had emphasized that the Secretary-General was required to submit to the General Assembly for its consideration and approval a proposal for such a construction project.**

96. **Given the scale and complexity of the proposed construction project, as well as the exceptional security situation and high risks presented by the operational environment of the Mission, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General be requested to submit a complete proposal with full justifications for consideration by the General Assembly. The Committee stresses that due attention should be paid in the Secretary-General's new proposal to ensure full compliance with United Nations procurement procedures for a transparent, competitive process for the selection of providers of products and services. Furthermore, the Committee is of the view that capital expenditure resources for a large multi-year project should be requested under section 32, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, in order to ensure a coordinated and systematic approach, with rigorous, central supervision and oversight through all the phases of the construction project. The new proposal should be submitted in time for the consideration of the General Assembly at its resumed sixty-second session.**

VI. Recommendation

97. **With regard to the Secretary-General's proposal for the action to be taken by the General Assembly, as set out in paragraph 30 of his report (A/62/512), the Advisory Committee recommends the following:**

(a) **With regard to the budgets for the 26 special political missions listed in table 1 of document A/62/512 for the period up to December 2008, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve the resources requested by the Secretary-General subject to its observations and recommendations in the paragraphs above. The Committee requests that the adjusted amount be provided to the Assembly at the time of its consideration of this item;**

(b) **With regard to the proposal for the construction of safe and secure facilities in Baghdad for UNAMI, as presented in section II of document A/62/512/Add.5, the Advisory Committee has recommended that the Secretary-General be requested to submit a new complete and detailed proposal for the consideration of the General Assembly, under section 32, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, of the programme budget. It therefore recommends against approval of resources in the amount of $180,150,000 related to the construction of the United Nations integrated compound in Baghdad.**